



ReMeMaRe conference 2025

Restoring estuarine, marine & coastal habitats

Draft programme



Ocean
and Coastal
Futures



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9 & 10 July 2025

Scarborough Spa, England



ReMeMaRe 2025

Outline programme



The Environment Agency, The Crown Estate, and Ocean and Coastal Futures have come together for the Restoring Meadow, Marsh, and Reef (ReMeMaRe) Conference 2025.

Bringing together restoration practitioners, Government bodies, environmental Non-Government Organisations, industry and businesses, from across the UK and internationally, with a shared vision to restore our estuaries and coasts. Providing a welcoming space for knowledge exchange and discussion on the latest developments in coastal restoration science, practice, and policy.

Across two days, the 2025 programme will highlight current and future opportunities and challenges, illustrating progress and evolving practice and discussing how we achieve our restoration targets.

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Day 1 - Wednesday 9th July 2025: Session 1

10:00	Welcome	Roger Proudfoot , Head of Estuaries and Coast, Environment Agency
10:10	ReMeMaRe	Hannah Westoby , Estuary and Coast Advisor, Environment Agency
10:20	Keynote	Clare Dinnis , Director of Wetland Conservation, WWT the charity for wetlands and wildlife

SOURCE TO SEA

Speakers will focus on the critical connectivity between freshwater and marine ecosystems, and why source to sea system thinking is required for both active restoration, and natural recovery of our seascapes

Chair: **Anne Dacey**, Deputy Director: Water Futures, Environment Agency

- | | |
|-------|---|
| 10:45 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chris Leakey, NatureScot; From Munros to Modiolus – A Scottish Source to Sea journey• Jo Bayes, Environment Agency; Applying a Natural Capital Approach from Source to Sea: Blackwater and Colne Case Study• Hannah Nash, North Devon Biosphere; The North Devon UNESCO Biosphere: An Integrated Source to Sea Approach• Ben Lamb, Tees Rivers Trust; Tackling Estuary Restoration with Catchment-wide Solutions• Trine Cecilie Larsen, DHI group; Investigating the effects of nutrient reductions and eelgrass meadows: A modelling study to support good ecological status in Denmark |
|-------|---|

12:00 Lunch

Please note that all timings are subject to change

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Day 1 - Wednesday 9th July 2025: Session 2

VALUING AND ENABLING RESTORATION

There are myriad of ways we can experience and translate the value of restoration. Speakers will explore topics such as the use of Natural Capital Approaches, and specific ecosystem services benefits (such as climate change mitigation, social, wellbeing, biodiversity or economic benefits), showcasing the best practice approaches that have led to successful investment in projects/programmes.

Chair: **David Tudor**, Director, Ocean and Coastal Futures & Pelagos

- 13:00
- **Michael Perring**, UKCEH and University of Western Australia; Orders of magnitude variation in denitrification rates across intact English saltmarsh habitats: the importance of vegetation zones and coastal location
 - **Nicola Beaumont and Mark Collar**, Plymouth Marine Lab, EFTEC; Sea the Value: Marine Biodiversity Benefits for a Sustainable Society/ Sea the Value: Applying Environmental Economics to Marine Restoration
 - **Gina Rienhardt**, University of Essex; Governance of Restoration: How Diffusion, Devolution, and Discretion Can Affect Restoration Outcomes
 - **Ben Green**, National Grid; Powering change – How the Great Grid Upgrade can energise marine restoration

14:30 Refreshments

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Day 1 - Wednesday 9th July 2025: Session 3

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES

How can we better engage with deprived coastal communities and what role can restoration activity have in supporting opportunities for increasing growth and wellbeing outcomes?

Chair: **Diana Pound**, Managing Director, Dialogue Matters

- 15:00
- **Diana Pound**, Dialogue Matters; It's all about the Power!
 - **Emily Ross**, South Tyneside Council and Stronger Shores; Protecting Our Coasts: Collaborative Approaches in the Stronger Shores Project
 - **Shovi Anjum**, Solway Firth Partnership; Community-Led Saltmarsh Restoration in the Cumbrian Solway Firth
 - **Caitlin Godfrey**, Marine Conservation Society; Restoring Reefs, Engaging Communities: How Citizen Science is Supporting European Flat Oyster Restoration
 - **Tanya Riley**, University of Highlands and Islands; Restoring Shetland's Seas: Community Identification of Challenges and Opportunities for Marine Restoration and Enhancement

16:30 **Aoife Luscombe and Kat Bruce**, SeaChange; Rowing around Great Britain to collect data and stories for nature and Climate

16:50 Poster Presentations

17:15 Reception and Posters

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Day 2 - Wednesday 10th July 2025: Session 4

9:00 **Welcome** Environment Agency

9:05 **Keynote** Nathan Waltham, Rose Forster, Justine Bell
Upscaling Restoration in Australia

RESTORATION IN ACTION

What are some of the lessons learned from hands-on restoration projects across the UK and internationally? Speakers will showcase restoration in action, highlighting innovative activities at individual habitat level, but also shifting our approaches to seascape scale projects.

Chair: **Phillip Turner**, Senior Nature Partnerships Manager, The Crown Estate

- 9:25
- **Andy van der Schatte Olivier**, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust; Scaling Up Estuarine Recovery: Lessons from the Wilder Humber Multi-Habitat Restoration Project
 - **Orlando Venn**, WWT the charity for wetlands and wildlife; Wading through the mud. Tackling challenges of delivering coastal restoration
 - **Jon Dickson**, Royal Netherlands Institute for Sea Research NIOZ; Who lives in a pear tree under the sea? Sunken wood as a missing coastal ecosystem
 - **Oliver Thomas**, Project Seagrass; Lessons learnt from a large-scale seagrass restoration project in north Wales
 - **Gurjameer Singh Ramday**, Herriott Watt University; The Fruits of Monitoring: Evaluating Success in Restoration
-

10:45 Refreshments

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Day 2 - Wednesday 10th July 2025: Session 5

RESTORATION SCIENCE

What breakthroughs and insights have developed in Seagrass, Saltmarsh, Native Oyster, and Kelp restoration science? Speakers will present cutting-edge research on coastal and estuarine ecosystems, address scientific challenges, and identify knowledge gaps that need to be bridged to achieve large-scale, effective restoration.

Chair: **Sally Little**, Senior Lecturer, Nottingham Trent University

- 11:15
- **Maria Lopez**, Bangor University; Why do some saltmarshes attract more fish than others?
 - **Alasdair O'Dell**, SAMS; SAMS and Seawilding: the role of science in informing seagrass restoration
 - **Heather Davison-Smith & Rodney Forster**, Yorkshire Marine Nature Partnership, University of Hull; The Great Yorkshire Kelp Forest Project
 - **Stefanie Carter**, UKCEH; Saltmarsh restoration: Evaluation of small-scale methods for big coastal gains.
 - **Amani Becker**, NOC; Coastal Ecosystem Enhancement Decision Support (CEEDS)

12:40 Lunch

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Day 2 - Wednesday 10th July 2025: Session 6

CULTURAL HERITAGE

What is the historical and cultural significance of estuarine and coastal habitats, and how has this influenced human connectivity to those habitats? Speakers will demonstrate how restoration efforts can preserve and celebrate cultural values, helping people connect to past and present by linking ecological restoration with the rich cultural narratives that have shaped these land and seascapes.

Chair: **Antony Firth**, Head of Marine & Coastal Heritage, Historic England

13:30

- **Anna McGregor**, University of Glasgow; Project Eisirean: A culturally-embedded framework approach towards restoration of native oysters in the west coast of Scotland for natural, cultural and economic benefits.
- **Valia Drakou**, University of Athens, Greece;
- **Elaine Willett**, Natural England; Marine Historic Environment: Considerations and Opportunities for Nature's Recovery.
- **Kate Jury**, National Trails; A Coastal Wildbelt - celebrating and strengthening the connections between people, nature and place.
- **Heidi McIlvenny**, Queen's University Belfast; What Seagrasses Mean to People: Legacy, Beauty and Emotional Connections to Temperate Seagrass Meadow.

15:00

Closing remarks

15:10

Conference Close

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Posters

- Anouska Mendzil, Swansea University: Seagrass security: assessing the commercial value of fisheries supporting and provisioning services in UK's temperate seagrass (*Zostera marina*) meadows
- Sue Burton, Environment Agency: Assessing how coastal habitat health and location benefits society
- Rebecca Bromley, Katherine Gilchrist, Helen Jay, National Trust: Managing Change at Northey Island
- Charlotte Trotman, Hull University: Are managed realignment sites net carbon sources or sinks? Insights from the Humber estuary, UK
- Alys Samuel Thomas, Swansea University: Navigating the Politics of Cross-border Conservation of Coastal habitat (C3)
- Bethany Lovell, Environment Agency: Turning strategies into action - targeting estuarine and coastal nature recovery through Local Nature Recovery Strategies
- Olivia Philo, Galway University: Assessing novel methods for restoring seagrass meadows in Irish Coastal Habitats
- Julian Blumenroeder, East Riding Council: The Concrete Coast programme
- Laura Welton, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust: Remote Larval Setting and Intertidal Deployment of *Ostrea edulis*: A Scalable Approach for Native Oyster Restoration in the UK
- Nick Chisholm, Dumfries and Galaway Council: SCAMP Nature Finance: Native oyster restoration and communities
- Catherine Veronis, Marine Stewardship Council: Defining native oysters and seagrasses: Connecting local restoration projects with historical ecology in the Moray Firth, UK
- Frances Procter, MMO: Restoring Marine Ecosystems: Identifying challenges and opportunities in England's East Marine Plan
- Lucy McMahon, Manchester Met: Integrating Natural and Social Science to measure Successful Coastal Restoration
- Ellie Maynard, Exeter University: A review of the evidence on the distribution of historical seabed habitats in English marine waters
- Corallie Hunt, NatureScot: To Harvest Marram Grass for Thatching, or Not?
- Maria Hayden-Hughes, Bangor University: Connecting Conwy: A plan for seascape scale recovery of coastal habitats in Conwy Bay and the Menai Strait, North Wales

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Posters

- Ashleigh Tinlin-Mackenzie, Groundwork: Learning from Restoration Pilots: Loose Cultch to Reef Cubes in Open Coastal Waters
- Heather Bell, Rivers Trust: Co-Designing a Coastal Restoration Planning Hub for Community-Led Action
- Ruth Lindsey, Natural Dales Wool Products: Are wool logs a sustainable alternative to coir?
- Adam Tillotson, MMO: Review of restoration and restoration-linked compensation marine licence applications
- Toni Scarr, Environment Agency: Is English Estuarine Environmental Management fit for purpose, and if not, what needs to be done?
- Lily Pauls, Natural Resources Wales: Restoring saltmarsh in the Severn Estuary using polders
- Sally Little, Nottingham Trent University: Linking the landscape and the seascape: nature-based solutions in tidal freshwaters
- Emmy Cooper-Young, Heriot-Watt: to be announced
- Olwen Belgrove, ZSL: Transforming the Thames: the seascape-scale restoration of the Greater Thames Estuary for people and nature
- Lawrence Northall, Coasts in Mind: Coasts in Mind: empowering communities and learning about coastal change through the value of local people
- Cami Domy, Swansea University: Adding dimension to species-habitat association models
- Charlotte Johnson, Natural England: MaRePo+ Marine Restoration Potential + Enhancement
- Elizabeth Lacey, Project Seagrass: Learning from water quality induced seagrass restoration failures in the Firth of Forth
- Geraldene Wharton, Queen Mary University of London & Ryan Smith, CBEC Eco-engineering: Physical habitat assessment of rivers and estuary margins from source to sea
- Peter Holt, Sonar Dyne: High-Resolution Habitat Mapping using Multi-Aperture Sonar (MAS) in Support of Seagrass Restoration in the Plymouth MPA
- Naomi Kennon, Heriot-Watt: Successful Snapping: Photogrammetry as a Tool for Monitoring Temperate Reef Restoration
- Will Manning, Environment Agency: Habitat Compensation and Restoration Programme (HCRP): 20 Years of Managed Realignments and Counting

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ReMeMaRe 2025

About

ReMeMaRe Restoring Meadow, Marsh and Reef (ReMeMaRe) (pronounced “re-memory”), is an ambitious habitat restoration initiative, which aims to address baseline shift and reverse centuries of decline of three of our priority estuarine and coastal habitats: seagrass meadows, saltmarshes and European native oyster reefs. By restoring these precious estuarine and coastal ecosystems, we are enhancing society's connection to the natural world, whilst delivering Nature-based Solutions (NbS) that address issues such as climate change, loss of biodiversity, sustainable food, health and well-being, as well as the socio-economic benefits of recreation and tourism that can help to alleviate deprivation in coastal towns.

Ocean and Coastal Futures is on a mission to improve coastal and ocean management. We do this through convening, connecting and spreading knowledge. We are the home of OCF news, jobs and events, including the long-running Coastal Futures conference, which have been focal points for the UK ocean, coastal and water sectors for over three decades. Together with the Environment Agency, we have hosted the annual ocean restoration conference series since 2019.

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ReMeMaRe 2025

Venue

The conference will once again take place next to the waves, overlooking the beach, at the historic Scarborough Spa. A reception for delegates at the end of the first day will allow an opportunity for informal and lively discussions, as well as a chance to meet with old and new colleagues.

Throughout the two days, you will also have the chance to meet our sponsors and view the posters on display. The town is served by regular trains running between London & Edinburgh, changing at York, and lines from Birmingham, Manchester and the South West.

Scarborough Spa, South Bay, Scarborough, North Yorkshire, YO11 2HD.
View the location [here](#).

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Spotlight on Scarborough

While you're in Scarborough for ReMeMaRe 2025, take a moment to visit the Seawatching Station on Marine Drive — part of the Wild Eye art and nature trail. Located at one of the UK's best coastal spots for observing dolphins and porpoises, with over 400 sightings last year, the station offers free telescopes and wildlife information, helping connect people with the rich marine life of the North Yorkshire coast. It features Roman Mosaic c. 2025, a permanent mosaic by Turner Prize-winning artist Jeremy Deller and Coralie Turpin, inspired by Scarborough's marine life and Roman heritage and developed with input from scientists, conservationists, archaeologists, and community groups.

Maps and info: www.wildeye.org.uk

Wild Eye is produced by art and environment organisation Invisible Dust which is based in Scarborough and works across the UK and internationally, and Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, Contact jane@invisibledust.com for more info or if you're interested in future projects invisibledust.com.

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Delegate rates

	In-Person	Online
Full	£145 +vat	£60 +vat
Concession*	£85 +vat	£40 +vat

* Concessions: Full-time students, unemployed, benefits recipients, registered disabled (+free companion)

Rates include refreshments, food and conference reception

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Sponsorship Opportunities

For any questions and to become a sponsor, please email jayne.onions@coastms.co.uk

	Exhibition Sponsor £750	Sponsor £295
Brand promotion on programme, website, social media and conference slides	✓	✓
Exhibition space at the venue	✓	
Delegate places included	3	1
Sponsor fees contribute to the poster showcase and evening reception	✓	✓

Prices are exclusive of VAT

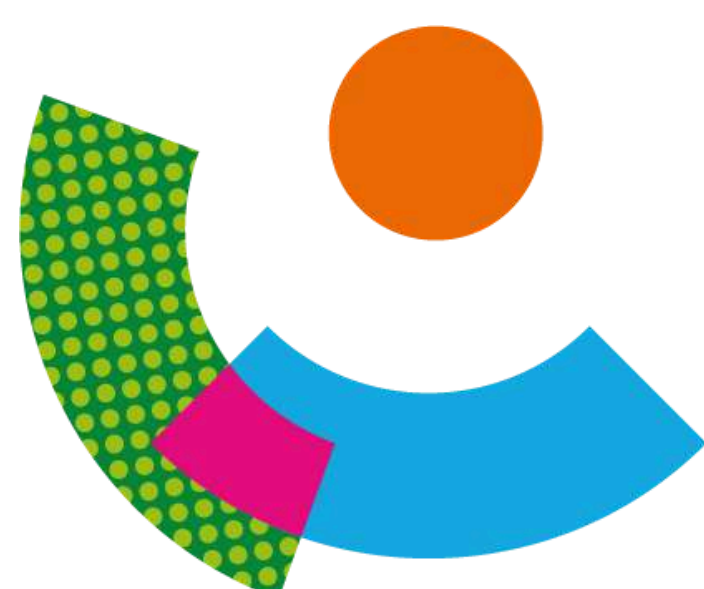
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Restoring Estuarine & Coastal Habitats



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